

2001: A SPACE  
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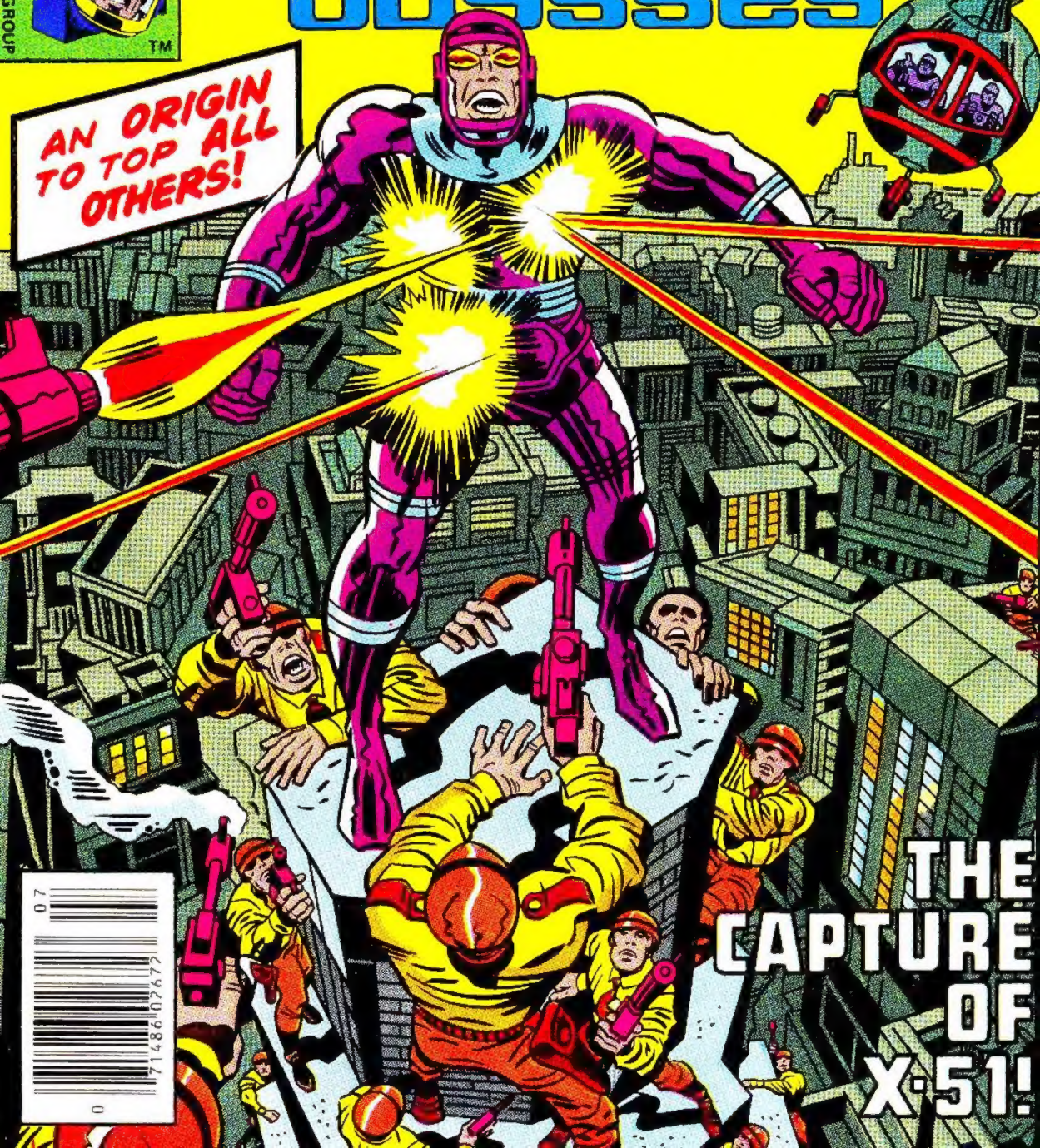
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FROM THE MGM  
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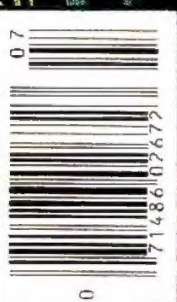
BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY TO THE STARS-AND BEYOND!!

# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

AN ORIGIN  
TO TOP ALL  
OTHERS!



THE  
CAPTURE  
OF  
X-51!





STAN LEE PRESENTS

# 2001 A SPACE ODYSSEY™

BASED ON CONCEPTS OF THE MGM MOVIE BY STANLEY KUBRICK AND ARTHUR C. CLARKE

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** • LETTERED AND INKED BY **MICHAEL ROYER** • COLORED BY **PETRA G.** • OVERSEEN BY **ARCHIE GOODWIN**



THIS IS THE  
MONOLITH,  
WITH A NEW  
DESTINY TO  
MOLD!

**IS HE A PUSH-BUTTON MAN?--OR A MACHINE IN SEARCH OF A SOUL? SUPER-HEROES WOULD PITY HIM! SUPER-VILLAINS WOULD SCOFF AT HIM! YET... HE IS A MATCH FOR ANY OF THEM!! THIS IS AN ODYSSEY TO FREEDOM... A JOURNEY FOR A NAME... FOR ONE WHO IS ONLY A NUMBER!!**

## THE CAPTURE OF "X-51"

IT'S HAPPENED  
AGAIN! THIS THING  
HAS  
SLIPPED  
ITS  
RAILS!

I-IT'S TOO  
POWERFUL!  
CAN'T  
HOLD  
ON!

I--

I-I'M NOT  
A THING!  
B-BUT  
WHAT  
AM I?  
WHAT  
AM I!?

CALM DOWN,  
STEEL SKIN!  
OR THESE  
WEAPONS  
WILL TEACH  
YOU HOW!

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MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE GIANT INSTALLATION...

CLOSE ALL SECTION DOORS! IT MUST NOT ESCAPE!!

GOOD LORD! ANOTHER MODEL IS OUT OF CONTROL! THIS IS DISASTROUS!

DOCTOR BROADHURST—! IT'S NUMBER X-35 THIS TIME! HE'S GONE BERSERK!!

I'VE HEARD THE ALERT!

I SUPPOSE IT *WAS* TOO MUCH TO HOPE THAT WE'D FIND A WAY TO *STOP* THIS KIND OF INCIDENT! I'M AFRAID WE'RE FACED WITH *FAILURE*, HAINES!

IN THAT CASE, YOU *KNOW* WHAT MUST BE *DONE*!

THIS PROJECT MUST BE *SCRAPPED*! THE DECISION IS *YOURS*!

WHAT MAKES THEM GO *MAD*, HAINES?

AFTER ALL, THEY'RE ONLY "*THINKING*" COMPUTERS IN THE *FORM* OF MEN!

PERHAPS A COMPUTER *WASN'T* MEANT TO *THINK* ON ITS OWN! IT MAY BE JUST AS SIMPLE AS *THAT*!

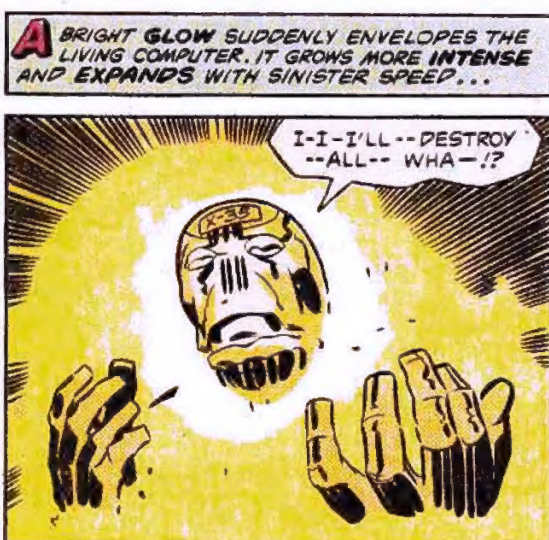
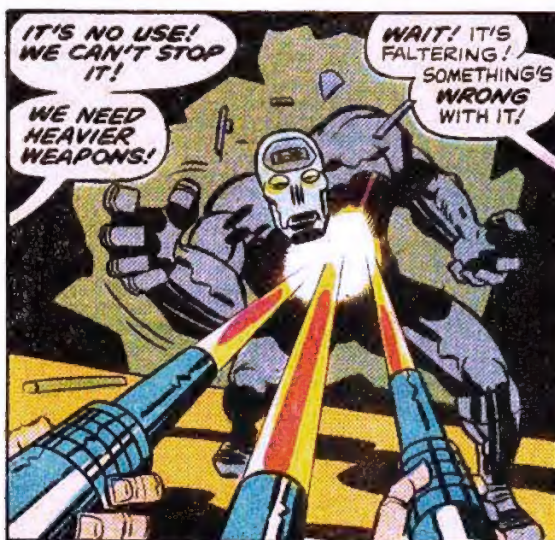
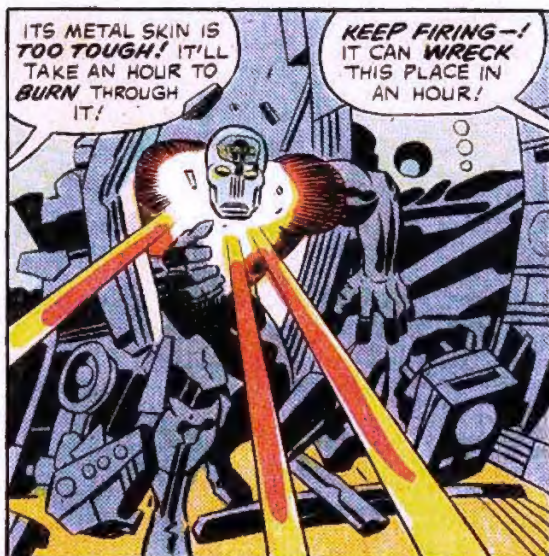
*NO...* WE JUST WEREN'T READY TO *GRASP* THE ANSWER. WE NEEDED MORE TIME... MORE TIME!

HOWEVER, I'VE DECIDED TO *DETONATE* THE EXPLOSIVES WE PLANTED IN EACH OF OUR *ROBOTS*! IT WILL BE ALL OVER IN *THIRTY* MINUTES!

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30.1











**S**OON AFTER, IN THE OFFICE OF DOCTOR BROADHURST...



WE'VE ACCOUNTED FOR FIFTY OF THE THINGS, HAINES--AND I'VE JUST CHECKED ON X-51. WHEN HE DETONATES--THE BOOK WILL CLOSE ON THIS PROJECT!

X-51... THAT'S THE MODEL WE ASSIGNED TO DOCTOR STACK, ISN'T IT?

YES. I JUST TALKED TO STACK. HE TOOK THE NEWS RATHER **BADLY!** BUT, THERE'S **NOTHING** HE CAN DO ABOUT IT! THE BOMB PLANTED IN X-51 IS **ACTIVATED!**



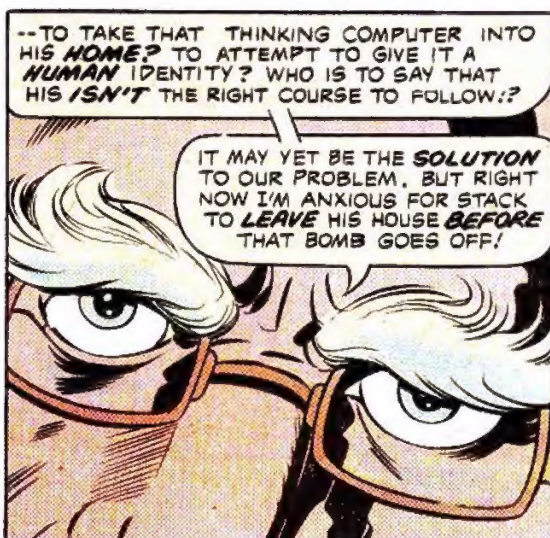
THE FOOL! TO TAKE **PERSONAL** CHARGE OF X-51 WAS A **RECKLESS** ACT!



GREAT EXPERIMENTORS LIKE STACK **IGNORE** PERSONAL RISK! LORD KNOWS HOW HE FEELS AT THIS MOMENT!

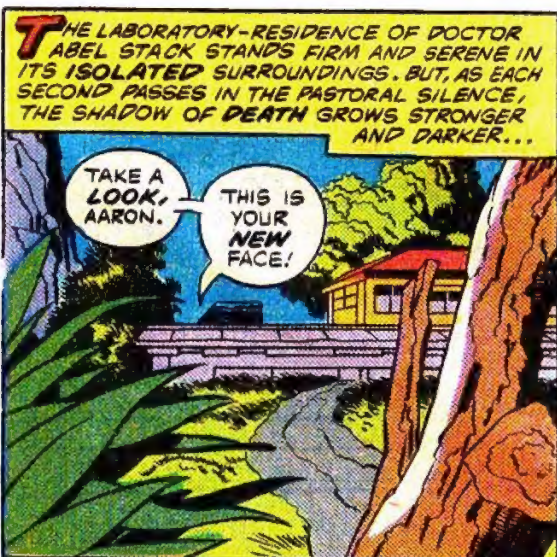
I WARNED YOU **AGAINST** ALLOWING STACK TO--

X-51 IS **NOT** JUST A NUMBER TO HIM! HE'S ALMOST A **SON!**



--TO TAKE THAT THINKING COMPUTER INTO HIS **HOME?** TO ATTEMPT TO GIVE IT A **HUMAN** IDENTITY? WHO IS TO SAY THAT HIS **ISN'T** THE RIGHT COURSE TO FOLLOW!?

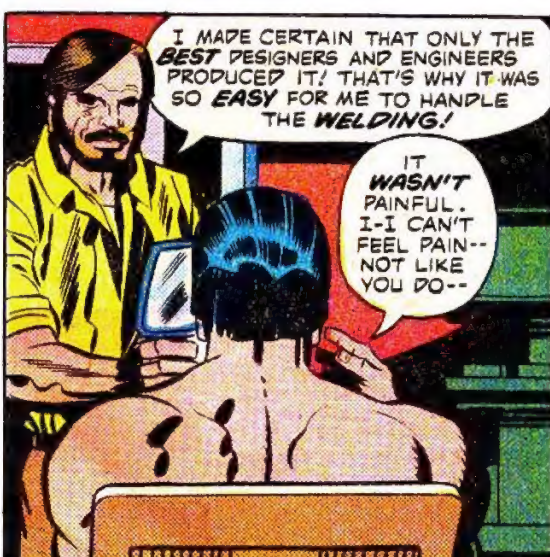
IT MAY YET BE THE **SOLUTION** TO OUR PROBLEM, BUT RIGHT NOW I'M ANXIOUS FOR STACK TO **LEAVE** HIS HOUSE **BEFORE** THAT BOMB GOES OFF!



**T**HE LABORATORY-RESIDENCE OF DOCTOR ABEL STACK STANDS FIRM AND SERENE IN ITS ISOLATED SURROUNDINGS. BUT, AS EACH SECOND PASSES IN THE PASTORAL SILENCE, THE SHADOW OF DEATH GROWS STRONGER AND DARKER...

TAKE A LOOK, AARON.

THIS IS YOUR **NEW** FACE!



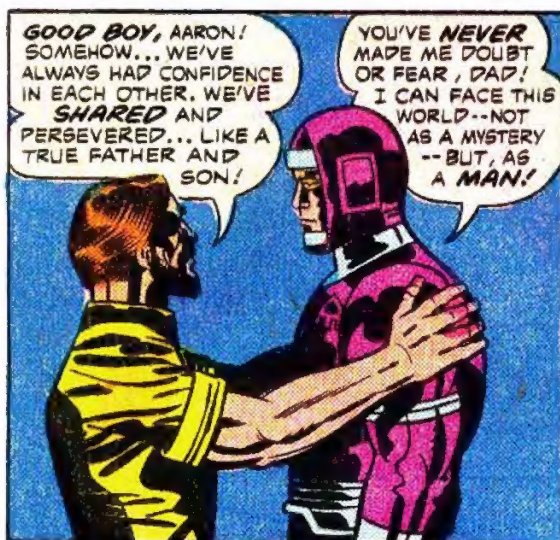
I MADE CERTAIN THAT ONLY THE **BEST** DESIGNERS AND ENGINEERS PRODUCED IT! THAT'S WHY IT WAS SO **EASY** FOR ME TO HANDLE THE **WELDING!**

IT **WASN'T** PAINFUL. I-I CAN'T FEEL PAIN--NOT LIKE YOU DO--











**S**TACK WATCHES AARON VANISH  
TOWARD THE SKY... AND  
FREEDOM...

ANTI-  
GRAVITY...

HE SOLVED  
THE SECRET WITH  
AMAZING EASE!

HOW WELL MY METHOD WORKED.  
TOO WELL, PERHAPS! I **TRULY** FEEL  
LIKE I'VE LOST A SON!

A COMPUTER THAT THINKS LIKE A  
MAN-- MUST BE **RAISED** LIKE  
ONE! BUT... HINDSIGHT IS  
**USELESS**  
NOW.

AT ANY RATE, I **WON'T** BE THE  
**FIRST** SCIENTIST TO FORFEIT  
HIS **LIFE** TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS!

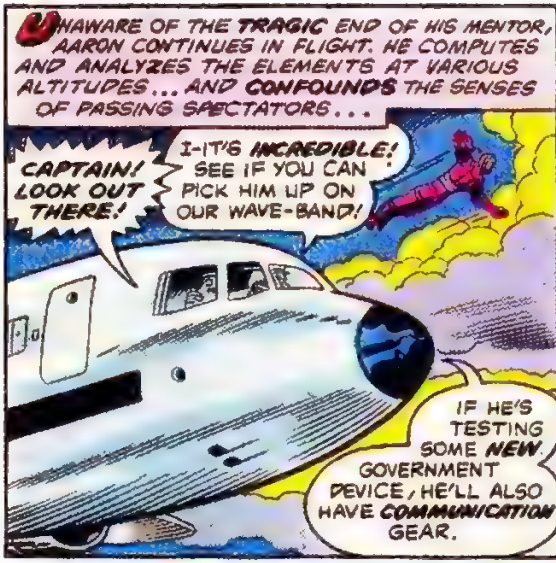
NOR WILL I BE THE **LAST**  
FATHER TO TAKE THE PLACE  
OF HIS BOY...

THERE IS **NO**  
ESCAPE FROM THIS  
INFERNAL BOMB!  
IT'LL **DETONATE**  
BEFORE I RUN  
FIFTY YARDS!

**T**HE HAND OF ABEL STACK IS CALM AND  
STEADY AS IT CRADLES DEATH IN ITS  
SOFT HOLLOW...





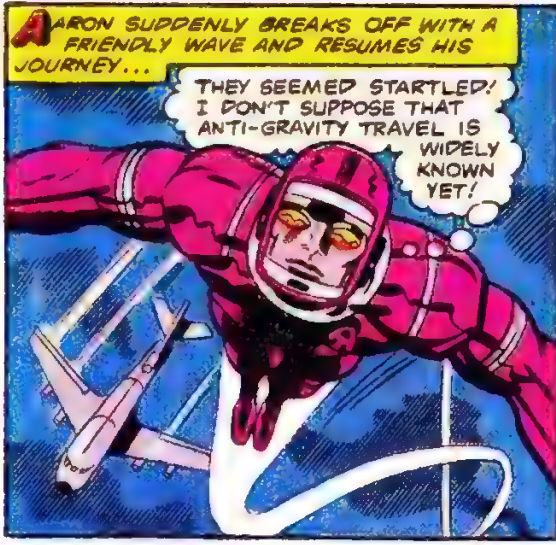


UNAWARE OF THE TRAGIC END OF HIS MENTOR, AARON CONTINUES IN FLIGHT. HE COMPUTES AND ANALYZES THE ELEMENTS AT VARIOUS ALTITUDES... AND CONFOUNDS THE SENSES OF PASSING SPECTATORS...

CAPTAIN! LOOK OUT THERE!

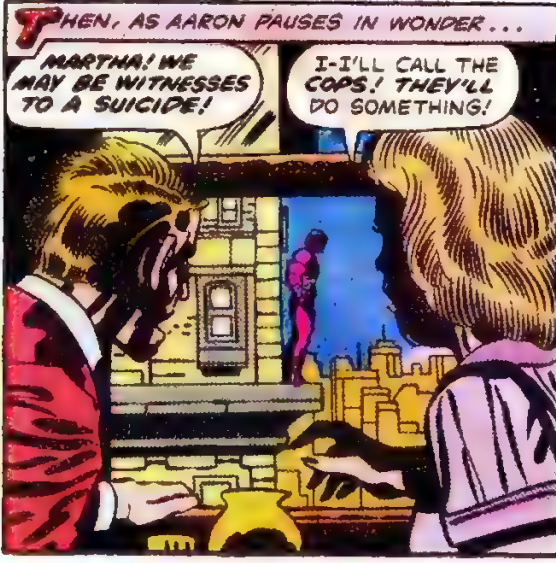
I-IT'S INCREDIBLE! SEE IF YOU CAN PICK HIM UP ON OUR WAVE-BAND!

IF HE'S TESTING SOME NEW GOVERNMENT DEVICE, HE'LL ALSO HAVE COMMUNICATION GEAR.



AARON SUDDENLY BREAKS OFF WITH A FRIENDLY WAVE AND RESUMES HIS JOURNEY...

THEY SEEMED STARTLED! I DON'T SUPPOSE THAT ANTI-GRAVITY TRAVEL IS WIDELY KNOWN YET!



THEN, AS AARON PAUSES IN WONDER...

MARTHA! WE MAY BE WITNESSES TO A SUICIDE!

I-I'LL CALL THE COPS! THEY'LL DO SOMETHING!



HOLD THE DIAL! HE'S PICKING US UP!

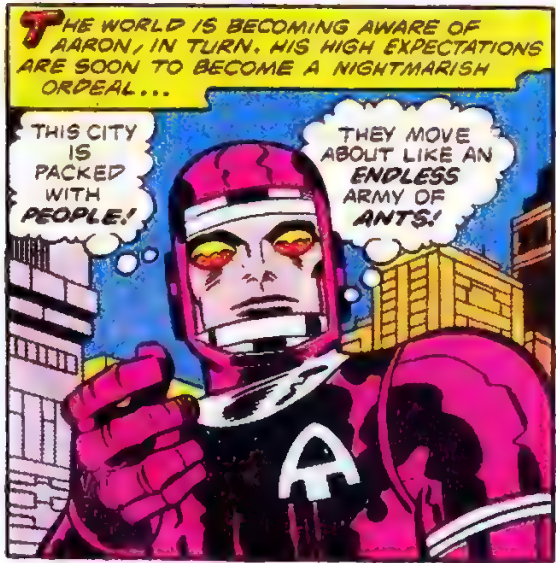
LET'S CONTACT THE AIRPORT! THIS MAY BE AN IMPORTANT SIGHTING!

WHA-! HE'S NOT A MAN! HE LOOKS LIKE A ROBOT-- OR SOME SORT OF MACHINE!



THE FEELING OF TOTAL FREEDOM IS EXHILARATING. AARON HAS LEFT ALL OBLIGATIONS BEHIND HIM. BEFORE HIM LIES THE WORLD...

A CITY! IT'S A VERY LARGE ONE, AT THAT! I-I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY BUILDINGS!



THE WORLD IS BECOMING AWARE OF AARON; IN TURN, HIS HIGH EXPECTATIONS ARE SOON TO BECOME A NIGHTMARISH ORDEAL...

THIS CITY IS PACKED WITH PEOPLE!

THEY MOVE ABOUT LIKE AN ENDLESS ARMY OF ANTS!



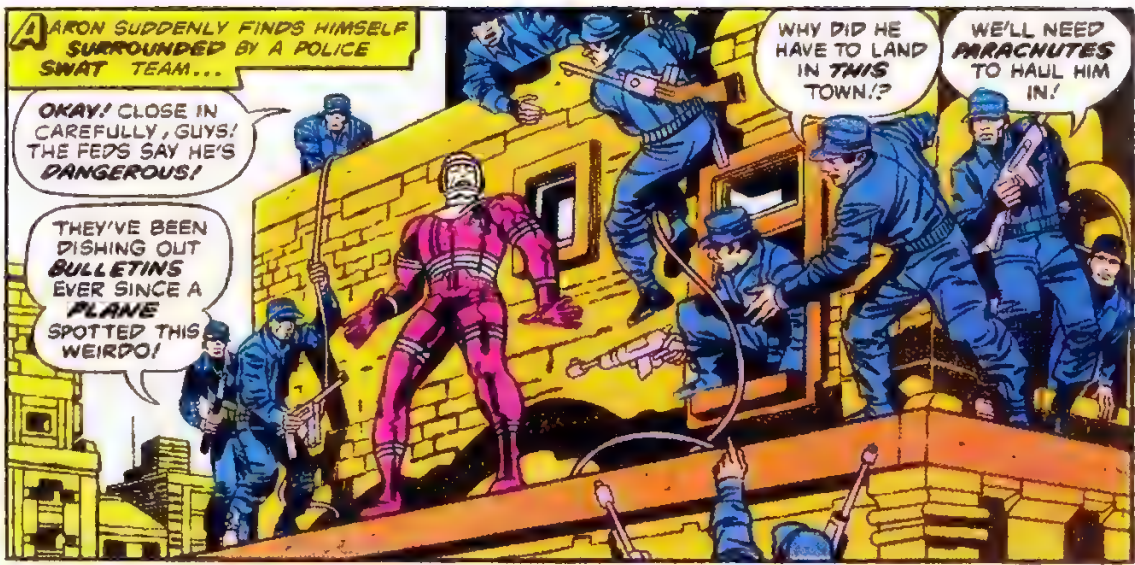
**A**ARON SUDDENLY FINDS HIMSELF SURROUNDED BY A POLICE SWAT TEAM...

OKAY! CLOSE IN CAREFULLY, GUYS! THE FEDS SAY HE'S DANGEROUS!

THEY'VE BEEN DISHING OUT BULLETINS EVER SINCE A PLANE SPOTTED THIS WEIRDO!

WHY DID HE HAVE TO LAND IN THIS TOWN!?

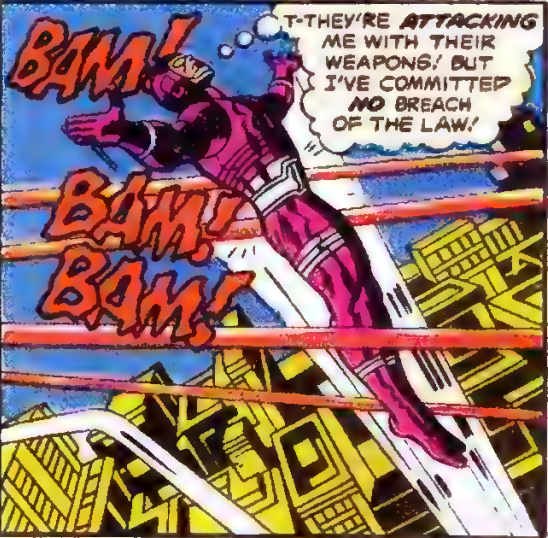
WE'LL NEED PARACHUTES TO HAUL HIM IN!



LOOK OUT! HE'S TAKING OFF LIKE A BIG-TAILED BIRD!

HE CAN REALLY DO IT!!

STOP! OR WE'LL SHOOT!



T-THEY'RE ATTACKING ME WITH THEIR WEAPONS! BUT I'VE COMMITTED NO BREACH OF THE LAW!

**H**IS HIDDEN CIRCUITS DETECT THE MILITARY HELICOPTER ARRIVING ON THE SCENE, BUT AARON IS NOT SWIFT ENOUGH TO OUT DISTANCE THE MISSILES FIRED AT HIM...

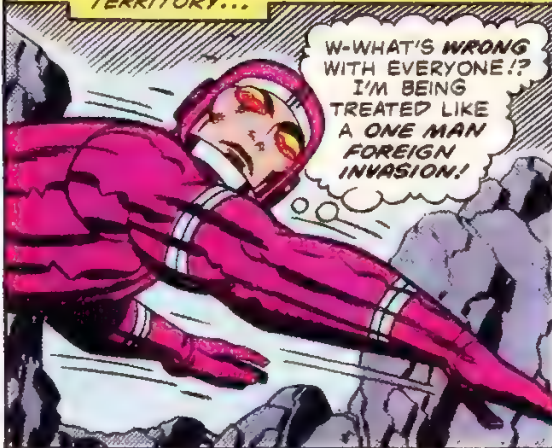


GOOD LORD!



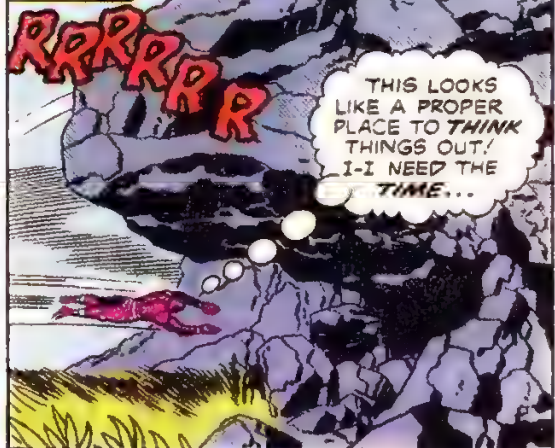


UNLIKE THE PRECEDING HUMAN-COMPUTERS, AARON IS CONSTRUCTED TO WITHSTAND THE MOST POWERFUL ATTACK. HE INCREASES HIS SPEED AND HEADS FOR OPEN, RUGGED TERRITORY...



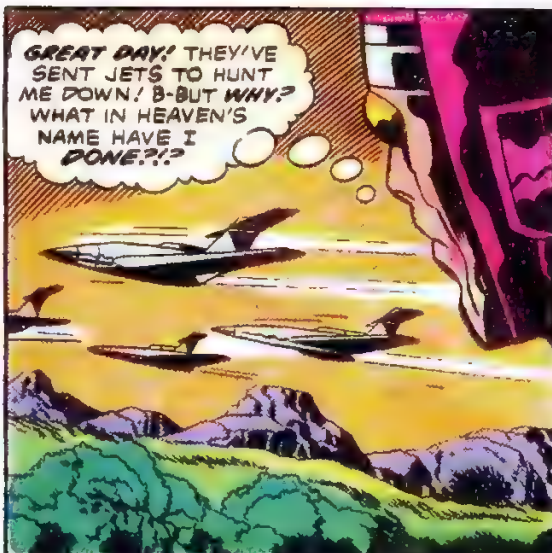
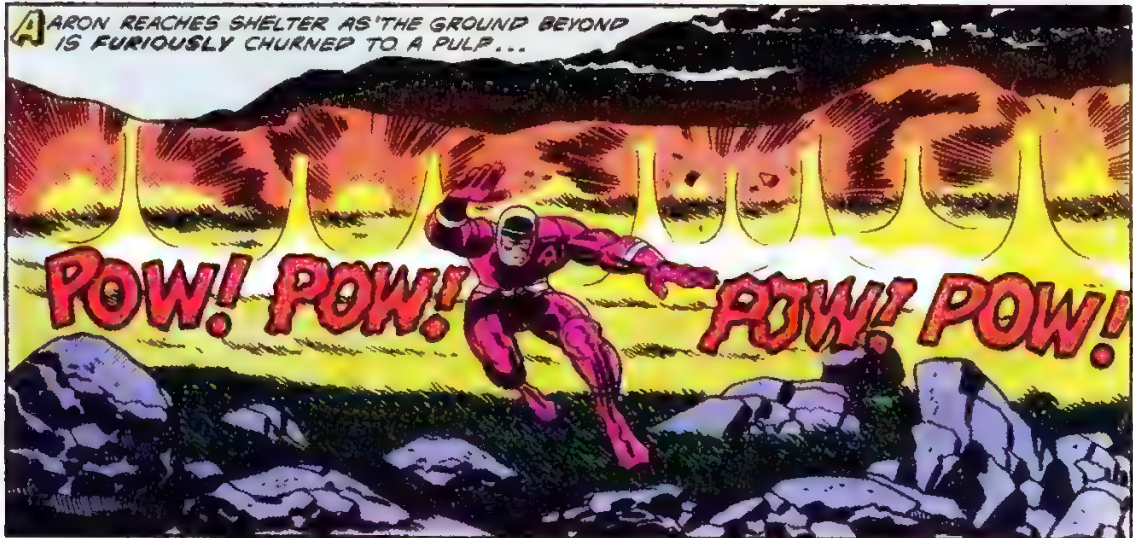
W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH EVERYONE!? I'M BEING TREATED LIKE A ONE MAN FOREIGN INVASION!

THE SOUND OF PLANES REACHES HIM ONCE AGAIN. THEN...

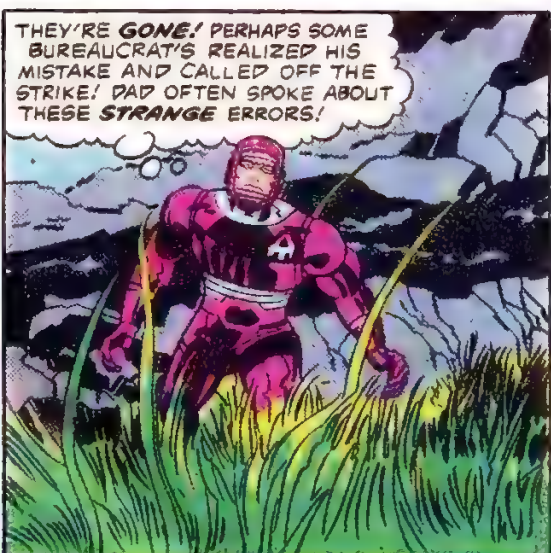


THIS LOOKS LIKE A PROPER PLACE TO THINK THINGS OUT! I-I NEED THE TIME...

AARON REACHES SHELTER AS THE GROUND BEYOND IS FURIOUSLY CHURNED TO A PULP...



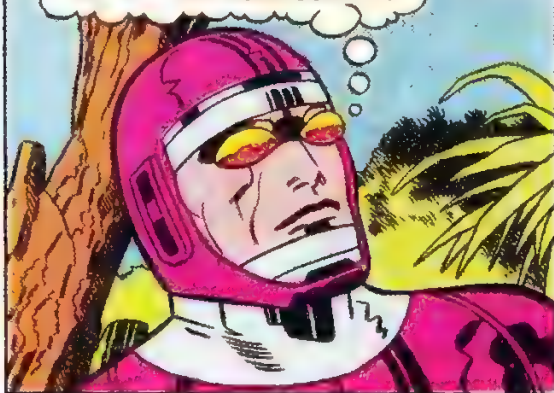
GREAT DAY! THEY'VE SENT JETS TO HUNT ME DOWN! B-BUT WHY? WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME HAVE I DONE?..?



THEY'RE GONE! PERHAPS SOME BUREAUCRAT'S REALIZED HIS MISTAKE AND CALLED OFF THE STRIKE! DAD OFTEN SPOKE ABOUT THESE STRANGE ERRORS!



STILL... MY PRESENCE HAS EVIDENTLY STRUCK A **BAD** CHORD AMONG THE AUTHORITIES! WHAT IS IT ABOUT ME THAT MAKES THEM REACT SO VIOLENTLY? IS THERE SOME **FACT** WHICH DAD WITHHELD FOR MY OWN **WELL-BEING**?!



**A** COMPUTER'S ANSWER WOULD BE "INSUFFICIENT DATA." BUT, HAVING BEEN REARED AS A HUMAN, AARON IS MERELY PUZZLED... THEN DEEPLY DISTURBED...

I'M DIFFERENT, THAT'S FOR SURE -- BUT **HOW** DIFFERENT? THE ANSWER MAY LIE IN **THAT** DIRECTION!



**A** COMPUTER'S INSTINCT IS TO COMPUTE. AARON ACTIVATES HIS MEMORY BANKS. HE SEARCHES FOR A CLUE TO SOLVING HIS PREDICAMENT, BUT FAILS TO FIND IT...

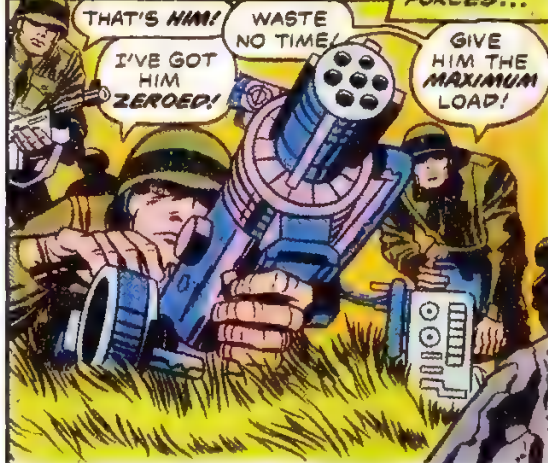


**B**UT AARON HAS LINGERED IN THE AREA TOO LONG. HE IS DISCOVERED BY GROUND FORCES...

THAT'S HIM!  
I'VE GOT HIM ZEROED!

WASTE NO TIME!

GIVE HIM THE MAXIMUM LOAD!



**A** SCREAMING BLAST OF SONIC BEAMS ZAP INTO AARON'S METAL-TOUGH BODY!



**I**T IS SOUND, MANIPULATED TO PENETRATE WITH SUCH FORCE THAT IT ALSO TEARS GREAT BOULDERS FROM THEIR ANCHORAGE IN THE GROUND...





**A**ARON'S CIRCUITS BLANK OUT! HE IS IN DARKNESS FOR AN INDETERMINABLE PERIOD. THEN... HE SLOWLY BEGINS TO ACTIVATE ONCE MORE...

**HAHA HA!**

SO... YOUR CURRENT'S TURNING ON AGAIN, EH?

**HAHA HAH!**

DIDN'T THINK WE COULD SCRAMBLE YOUR CIRCUITS, DID YOU, JUNK BUCKET?!

WELL, WE CAN... AND WE **DID!!**

IT TOOK A LITTLE TIME FOR ORDINANCE TO PERFECT THE **SONIC BAZOOKA!** BUT IT CAN STOP YOU COLD!

IT CAN TEAR YOU METAL MANIACS TO SHREDS!!

I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

W-WHO ARE YOU?

YOUR **MASTER!** THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO KNOW, YOU **ANIMATED LUNCH-BOX!**

THANKS TO THOSE **MEAT-HEADS** IN THE RESEARCH DIVISION YOU'RE STILL FUNCTIONAL!

BUT... I'LL SOON **CHANGE** THAT!

COLONEL!

YOU'RE WANTED IN DOCTOR BROADHURST'S LABORATORY!

I HAVE TO LEAVE NOW--

--BUT IF YOU GET ANY BIZARRE IDEAS ABOUT **ESCAPE**, JUST KEEP YOUR **HEADLIGHTS** ON THIS SONIC GUN! IT'LL BLAST YOU THE MOMENT YOU BREAK OUT OF THAT **OUJA BOARD** AND OPEN THE CELL DOOR!

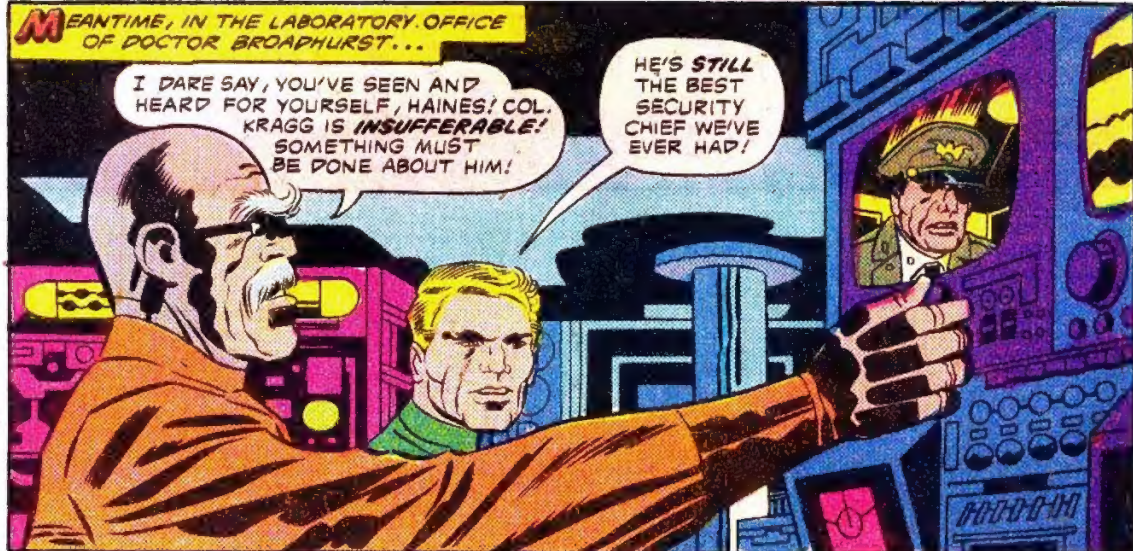
HONESTLY, COLONEL... I **DON'T** UNDERSTAND **WHY** I'M BEING KEPT HERE!



**M**EANTIME, IN THE LABORATORY OFFICE  
OF DOCTOR BROAPHURST...

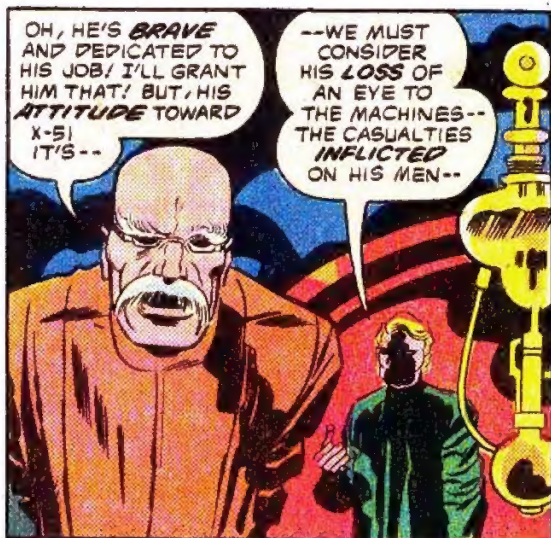
I DARE SAY, YOU'VE SEEN AND  
HEARD FOR YOURSELF, HAINES! COL.  
KRAGG IS **INSUFFERABLE!**  
SOMETHING MUST  
BE DONE ABOUT HIM!

HE'S **STILL**  
THE BEST  
SECURITY  
CHIEF WE'VE  
EVER HAD!



OH, HE'S **BRAVE**  
AND DEDICATED TO  
HIS JOB! I'LL GRANT  
HIM THAT! BUT, HIS  
**ATTITUDE TOWARD**  
X-5!  
IT'S--

--WE MUST  
CONSIDER  
HIS **LOSS** OF  
AN EYE TO  
THE MACHINES--  
THE CASUALTIES  
**INFLECTED**  
ON HIS MEN--



--YES, YES, YES!  
IT WAS  
**DEPLORABLE!**  
BUT, ALL IN  
THE LINE OF  
**DUTY!**  
THIS **PRESENT**  
BEHAVIOR MAY  
GENERATE  
**NEW** PROBLEMS  
FOR US!

SO NOW  
IT'S THE  
**HUMANS**  
THAT  
DISTURB  
YOU, EH?



YOU **FOOL!** DON'T YOU SEE WHAT  
KRAGG HAS DONE? WHEN HE  
STRIPPED THAT MACHINE OF  
ITS **FACE**, HE REMOVED ITS  
VITAL **LINK** TO HUMANITY!

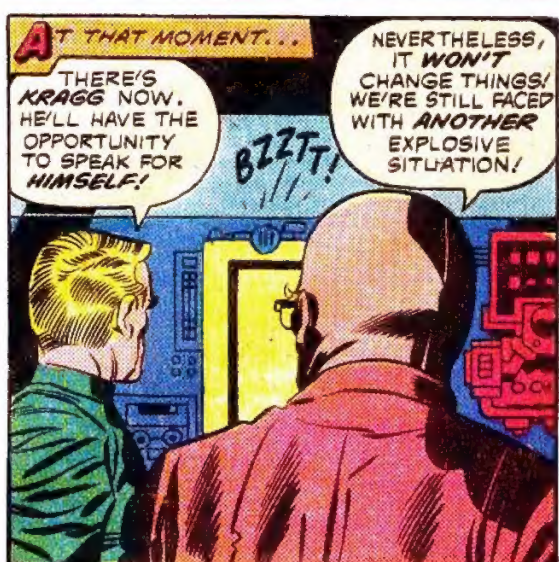
THAT MACHINE  
HAS **LOST** ITS  
IDENTITY!  
IT MAY  
GO **MAD!**



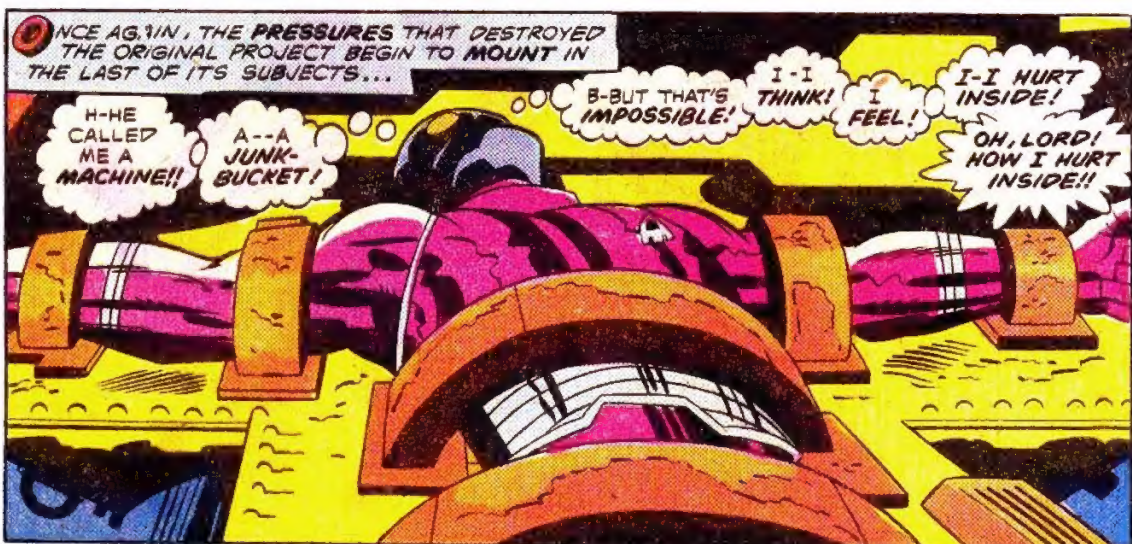
**A**T THAT MOMENT...

THERE'S  
**KRAGG** NOW.  
HE'LL HAVE THE  
OPPORTUNITY  
TO SPEAK FOR  
**HIMSELF!**

NEVERTHELESS,  
IT **WON'T**  
CHANGE THINGS!  
WE'RE STILL FACED  
WITH **ANOTHER**  
EXPLOSIVE  
SITUATION!



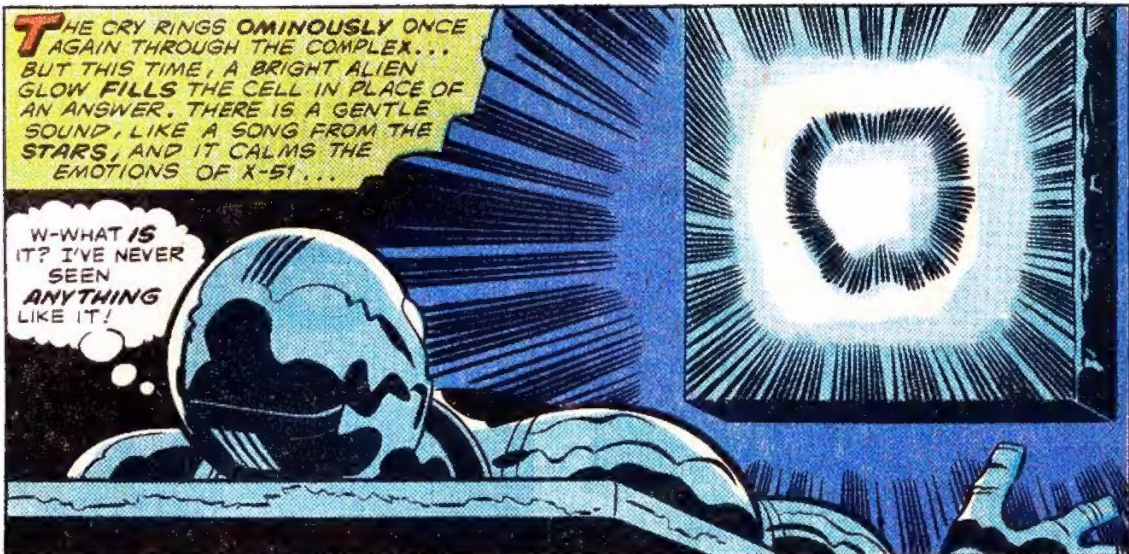






**T**HE CRY RINGS OMINOUSLY ONCE AGAIN THROUGH THE COMPLEX... BUT THIS TIME, A BRIGHT ALIEN GLOW FILLS THE CELL IN PLACE OF AN ANSWER. THERE IS A GENTLE SOUND, LIKE A SONG FROM THE STARS, AND IT CALMS THE EMOTIONS OF X-51...

W-WHAT IS IT? I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!



**I**N SOME STRANGE MANNER, A BALANCE IS RESTORED WITHIN THE CAPTIVE. BUSILY, HIS CIRCUITS LEAP TO LIFE. HIS GREAT STRENGTH RETURNS!



NEVER AGAIN SHALL I BE BOUND OR HELPLESS BEFORE MEN! NOR SHALL I TOLERATE THOSE WHO DO IT TO OTHERS!



**X-51** APPROACHES THE MONOLITH... IT IS DESTINED TO SERVE HIM IN THE ABSENCE OF A DEAD MAN...



**N**EXT: GET IN ON THE GROUND FLOOR AND WITNESS THE--

**BIRTH OF A SUPER HERO**